

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steve Stern**

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## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN CUTS RED TAPE FOR OUR VETERANS

*“Helping Our Veterans” Program to expedite and coordinate services for our returning servicemen and women*

**HUNTINGTON, NY** –Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16<sup>th</sup> LD, Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, joined with Legislator Tom Cilmi (R-East Islip) 10<sup>th</sup> LD, to sponsor successful legislation creating a Helping Our Veterans, “HOV” lane, dedicated to expediting services within the Suffolk County Department of Social Services (DSS) for the brave servicemen and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our great nation.

Suffolk County is home to the largest veterans’ population in New York State. Legislator Stern previously authored the “Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act,” a groundbreaking legislative initiative aimed at eradicating veterans’ homelessness in Suffolk County. An important element of that new law assigned a Veterans Services Officer (VSO) to DSS offices to more effectively and efficiently deliver services to our veterans and provide peer-to-peer support.

“This new program will help with the implementation of the “Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act” to ensure that those who serve our country will have full access to the benefits they have earned and will be treated with respect and dignity,” Legislator Stern said. “I am proud to join with my colleagues to continue to help protect those who protect us.”